

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OFFICER

(Competitive Class)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS

This class encompasses positions, the duties of which include response to any fire calls that may involve materials which pose a threat to life and property and which cannot be extinguished by conventional means. Employees of this class respond to fire calls to assist line fire companies by identifying hazardous materials, planning and directing emergency scene operations, and by locating any specialized technical assistance needed. Hazardous materials officers also provide training for line fire companies in the handling of hazardous materials, cooperate with and assist the fire prevention division in pre-fire planning for hazardous materials incidents, and keep all records and write all required reports for the division. Employees of this division work independently in many assigned areas with instruction and assistance in unusual or difficult assignments from the assistant hazardous materials chief under the supervision of the hazardous materials chief. This class ranks directly below that of Assistant Hazardous Materials Chief.

EXAMPLES OF WORK

Examples listed below are illustrative only. They are not intended to include all duties which may be assigned, neither are they intended to exclude other duties which may be logical assignments to this class.

Assists regular fire line companies at the scene of any fire or emergency involving hazardous materials. Identifies materials unfamiliar to regular companies. Makes decisions such as how to contain fire and prevent further emergencies. Directs firefighting companies by making decisions on the placement of equipment, deployment of firefighters, and related matters. Decides when to call out additional specialists to assist in fire fighting efforts. Orders evacuation of surrounding areas when required. Directs the work of other agencies such as state police and civil defense, who may be called out to assist in hazardous materials incidents.

Maintains files on warehouses and other areas that may be storage places for hazardous materials. Keeps records of individuals to be called to identify materials that may burn or be life threatening. Keeps records of resource groups to be called for information and back-up in hazardous materials

emergencies. Makes maps of storage areas for use in pre-fire fire planning of hazardous materials incidents. Coordinates pre-fire planning with the fire prevention division.

Informs agencies responsible of need for clean-up of hazardous materials spills and oversees clean-up operations until these are completed.

Teaches handling of hazardous materials both at the drill ground and at fire stations during company training. Assists in developing training material, and in writing and scoring tests. Keeps training records. Trains volunteer companies and companies from departments in surrounding areas in the handling of hazardous materials.

Works with the coast guard to plan for hazardous materials incidents on the river. Cooperates with industry in planning for the transportation of hazardous materials by water.

Operates mobile hazardous material unit. Performs chemical tests to identify hazardous materials at the scene of an incident.

Handles media questions concerning hazardous materials. Gives talks, lectures, and demonstrations to civic groups, schools, and similar organizations. Attends schools and training courses on new developments in any areas involving hazardous materials.

Keeps records and writes reports on all work of the division.

Performs any related duties assigned.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Unless otherwise specified, all requirements listed below must be met by the filing deadline for application for admission to the examination.

Must meet all requirements of the Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Law, including being a citizen of the United States.

Before appointment, must pass a medical examination designed to show good health and physical abilities necessary to perform the duties of the position.

Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Must possess a valid driver's license.

Must present documentation indicating, at a minimum, that the applicant has met the minimum high school graduation requirements necessary to receive a high school diploma as established by the state of Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Such documentation shall include at least one of the following: high school diploma, high school transcript, certificate of equivalency, affidavit from the issuing high school, college diploma, or college transcript, any one of which must indicate that graduation has occurred or a degree awarded. A certification of completion shall not be sufficient to substitute for certification of graduation.

Must have successfully completed training requirements to qualify for Firefighter I status.

Must have not less than three (3) years of full-time, paid experience in fire suppression or in a combination of fire suppression and handling of hazardous materials.

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